



Department
for Work &
Pensions

DWP Central Freedom of
Information Team
Caxton House
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SW1H 9NA

Anne Camm
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& request-748580-563ba9ef@whatdotheyknow.com

[freedom-of-information-
request@dwp.gov.uk](mailto:freedom-of-information-request@dwp.gov.uk)

[DWP Website](https://www.dwp.gov.uk)

Our Ref: FOI2021/30585 &
FOI2021/30589

7 May 2021

Dear Anne Camm,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (FoI) request received on 16 April. You wrote:

“How many people became widows/ widowers between September 2019 and September 2020 and what number of them had a reduced State Pension as a result of merging of the two State retirement pensions?”

DWP Response

We can confirm that we hold information falling within the description specified in your request. However, we have estimated that the cost of meeting your request would exceed the cost limit of £600 specified in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 3½ working days (equivalent to 24 staff-hours) in determining whether the Department holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting it.

Under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act the Department is not therefore obliged to comply with your request and we will not be processing it further.

Under section 16 of the Act we should help you with your request so that it may fall beneath the cost limit. You may want to change your request by asking for the number of people who have become widowed between September 2019 and September 2020 (or the most recent available data) and the number of these individuals who have, for any reason, also had a reduction in State Pension in this same period.

We will consider afresh any revised request however we cannot guarantee that any revised request will fall within the cost limit. If you have any queries about this letter, please contact us quoting the reference number above.

Yours sincerely,

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team
Department for Work and Pensions

Your right to complain under the Freedom of Information Act

If you are not happy with this response you may request an internal review by e-mailing freedom-of-information-request@dpw.gov.uk or by writing to: DWP Central Fol Team, Caxton House, 6-12 Tothill Street, London, SW1H 9NA.
Any review request should be submitted within two months of the date of this letter.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner's Office for a decision. Generally, the Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted our own complaints procedure. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF.
Website: [ICO Contact Information](#) or telephone 0303 123 1113.